

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHESHAM

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the year 1950



T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

FOR THE YEAR 1950

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Medical Officer of Health



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Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Chesham, Bucks.

September, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1950.

During the year under review the Council completed a major reconstruction of the length of main sewer in Latimer Road, adjoining the Council's Sewage Disposal Works. Reference is made in the body of the Report to the technical details of the work involved.

Since the completion of this work, although some areas of the town have suffered a certain extent of flooding caused by a high level of sub-soil water, there has been no instance of complaints of surcharge sewers, which in past years have given rise to most unsatisfactory conditions. There can be no doubt that this improvement has been due to the absence of infiltration in the important length of sewer in Latimer Road.

The incidence of infectious disease in the area has again been low. Details of cases are included in the Report, from which it will be noted that only one case of infantile paralysis was notified during the year 1950.

Since July, 5th, 1948, the responsibility for providing diphtheria immunisation has rested with the County and County Borough Councils, as Local Health Authorities, but the co-operation of other local authorities is essential for the success of the campaign.

The Council will no doubt wish to have some statistical evidence to ascertain the value of this preventive inoculation. The latest provisional figure for deaths from diphtheria in 1949 (the latest full year for which a total is available) was 85 compared with an average of about 2,800 deaths annually in the 10 year period 1931/40. The provisional number of deaths for the first half of 1950 was 32 compared with 53 for the same period in 1949. In the Chesham Urban District Council area there has been no confirmed case of diphtheria in a child notified during the past seven years.

One factor which is now threatening the continued success of the campaign is that the great reduction in the incidence and mortality of diphtheria, as a result of immunisation, now makes it less easy to bring home to parents the vital importance of protecting their children than it used to be when most of them had first-hand knowledge of this disease among their own or their neighbours' children. A drop in the number of immunisations done during the first half of 1950 as compared with the same period of 1949 shows that this trend cannot be ignored and that a special effort is needed if we are not to lose ground.

It is again my pleasing duty to thank my colleagues and other officers of the Council for their co-operation during the year. Particularly would I thank Mr. Saturley, the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his valuable assistance, and finally, Mr. Chairman and Councillors, I wish to thank you for your active interest in the work of the Department throughout the year.

Your obedient Servant,

T. P. EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T. P. Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

L. D. Saturley, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. P. Wells, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

ASSISTANT RODENT OFFICER

J. G. Dobson.

CLERK

Miss R. A. Nichols.

ARRANGEMENT OF REPORT.

A General and Vital Statistics.

Social Conditions
Area : Population
Rateable Value
Births and Deaths

B Health Services.

Hospital Facilities
Laboratory Services
Ambulance Services
Nursing in the Home
Clinics

C Infectious Diseases.

Incidence of Infectious Disease
Tuberculosis

D Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply
Sewage Disposal
Refuse Disposal and Salvage
Post-War Housing

E Sanitary Inspection.

Summary of Sanitary Inspectors' Visits
Abatement of Nuisances
Public Health Act, 1936, Statutory Notices
Public Health Act, 1936, Provision of Dustbins
Housing Act, 1936
Rodent Control

F Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply
Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouse
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933
Condemned Foodstuffs
Inspection of Food Premises
Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 15, Byelaws
Ice Cream Premises
Food Poisoning Notifications

G Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections
Defects found
Outwork
Chesham Industries

A. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

1 GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population	11,420
Area (acres) of District	3,489
Number of Inhabited Dwellings (per Rate Book).	3,640
Rateable Value of Area (31.3.51).	£79,026
Sum represented by ld. Rate (1950/51)	£309

The Urban District of Chesham was extended by the Bucks Review Order of 1934 from an acreage of 1,357 to the present acreage of 3,489. The rateable value on 1st April, 1920 was £46,915, on the 1st April, 1934, it was £56,528, whilst on 31st March, 1950 it was £77, 892.

The population of Chesham in 1921 was 8,534; in 1931, 8,809; and the Registrar General's estimate for 1950 was 11,420.

The product of a ld. rate has increased from £216 for the financial year 1934-5 to £309 for the financial year 1950/51.

2 VITAL STATISTICS.

Births. Infant and Maternal Mortality.

(a) Notified Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	78	82	160
Illegitimate	4	-	4

(b) Notified Still Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.4
Live Birth Rate; England and Wales	15.8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	23.8

(c) Deaths from puerperal causes	NIL
--	-----

(d) Deaths of Infants under one year of age	5
---	---

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births . .	31.3
All infants per 1,000 registered live births . .	30.5
All infants per 1,000 live births; England and Wales . .	29.8

Deaths.

Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.6
Death Rate, England and Wales	11.6

Causes of Death.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Heart Diseases	17	15	32
2. Malignant Neoplasms	10	14	24
3. Vascular lesions of Nervous System	10	13	23
4. Other Circulatory Diseases . .	7	5	12
5. Bronchitis	4	2	6
6. Pneumonia	1	4	5
7. Nephritis and Nephrosis . . .	2	1	3
8. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	2	2
9. Respiratory Tuberculosis . . .	-	1	1
10. Other Tuberculosis	1	-	1
11. Syphilitic Diseases	-	1	1
12. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1
13. Diabetes	-	1	1
14. Influenza	1	-	1
15. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
16. Hyperplasia of Prostate . . .	1	-	1
17. Congenital Malformations . . .	-	1	1
18. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	6	12
19. Motor Vehicle Accidents . . .	1	-	1
20. Suicide	3	1	4
Total of All Causes:	64	69	133

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1950

District	Registrar-Gen. Estimated Population 1950	Birth Rate per 1000.	Death Rate per 1000.	Phthisis Death Rate per 1000	Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births.	Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1000 births.	Maternal Mortality per 1000 live and still-births.
<u>URBAN</u>							
Aylesbury	20,900	17.4	9.2	0.19	30.2	24.7	-
Beaconsfield	7,656	16.1	11.1	-	40.7	32.5	-
Bletchley	10,800	17.0	7.7	0.19	5.4	5.4	-
Buckingham	4,180	12.7	11.0	0.96	18.9	18.9	-
Chesham	11,420	14.4	11.6	0.09	30.5	24.4	-
Eton	4,540	14.3	9.9	-	30.8	15.4	-
Linslade	3,372	15.1	12.8	0.30	19.6	19.6	-
Marlow	6,444	18.9	12.3	-	16.4	8.2	-
Newport Pagnell	4,460	12.8	10.8	0.45	-	-	-
Slough	66,340	15.4	8.7	0.20	28.4	19.6	1.91
Wolverton	13,480	13.9	17.0	0.37	48.1	32.1	-
Wycombe	41,010	15.1	9.7	0.17	24.3	17.8	1.58
TOTAL URBAN	194,602	15.5	10.1	0.20	26.9	19.6	0.98
<u>RURAL</u>							
Amersham	41,980	14.1	9.9	0.05	13.5	11.8	-
Aylesbury	29,100	16.5	10.2	0.14	20.8	18.7	-
Buckingham	9,290	16.5	9.1	0.22	32.7	26.1	-
Eton	41,400	15.7	10.0	0.14	21.6	12.3	-
Newport Pagnell	13,720	14.9	12.5	0.22	34.1	19.5	-
Wing	8,463	17.1	11.1	0.24	34.5	27.6	-
Winslow	7,672	12.8	14.2	-	10.2	10.2	-
Wycombe	39,860	15.7	10.5	0.10	27.2	12.8	-
TOTAL RURAL	191,485	15.4	10.5	0.12	22.7	15.2	-
TOTAL COUNTY	386,087	15.5	10.3	0.16	24.8	17.4	0.49
England and Wales	-	15.8	11.6	0.36	29.8	-	0.86

B. HEALTH SERVICES

1 HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

Chesham Urban District is situated in the Oxford Regional Hospital Area. The Regional Hospital Board has delegated the duty management of the local hospitals to the High Wycombe and District Management Committee which in turn has delegated day-to-day administration to two House Committees. One House Committee is responsible for three hospitals, viz., the Amersham General Hospital, the Chesham (Cottage) Hospital and the Stone Maternity Hospital, Chalfont St. Giles. The other is responsible for the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital, Chalfont St. Peter.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases and needing admission to hospital are removed to either Aylesbury Isolation Hospital or the Park Isolation Hospital, Reading, according to the patient's residence or the availability of accommodation in either of these hospitals.

The Oxford Regional Hospital Board have decided that Booker Isolation Hospital is to be adapted and used for non-infectious categories of patient, including chronic sick, for whom existing accommodation is inadequate.

2 LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, organised and administered by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health since 1939, will continue to be administered on a peacetime basis on behalf of the Ministry of Health for an initial period of five years after the appointed day of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious disease.

The Regional Public Health Laboratory is situated at Walton Street, Oxford, and in general, undertakes free of charge the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc.

The chemical examination of water is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

4 AMBULANCE SERVICES

Since the operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities of all kinds. The Bucks County Council provides an ambulance service for non-infectious cases for the whole of the County through the agency of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. Two St. John's Ambulances are stationed in Chesham.

Ambulances for the removal of infectious cases are stationed at Aylesbury and Slough.

I wish to place on record the splendid services performed by the Chesham St. John Ambulance Brigade in the year under review. The transport activities of their ambulances are well illustrated by the following figures which are published by courtesy of the Divisional Superintendent, Mr. H.J. Humphrey, 111, High Street, Chesham.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950.</u>
(a) Removals to Hospital . .	1,034	1,034	1,200	1,727
(b) Accidents attended . . .	66	76	101	136
(c) Military Service Cases .	9	6	16	40
(d) Total	<u>1,109</u>	<u>1,116</u>	<u>1,317</u>	<u>1,903</u>
(e) Mileage	19,775	23,695	26,561	37,636

It is a very pleasant duty once again to thank all the officers and personnel of the Brigade who gave their valuable service to the town in such an unobtrusive and unheralded manner.

4 NURSING IN THE HOME.

This service is now provided by Sister Monaghan, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N., Q.N., Sister Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., and Sister Moran, S.R.N., from 305, Berkhamsted Road, Chesham. The nursing sisters also hold an ante-natal clinic at this address.

5 CLINICS.

There has been no major change in the dual services provided at the Germain Street Clinic, viz., a Minor Ailments Clinic and a Specialised Service Clinic.

The Venereal Diseases Scheme of the Bucks County Council has established clinics at King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, and at High Wycombe.

C PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1 INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 46 cases of Infectious Disease notified, as follows:

Infectious Diseases.

Disease	Cases Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	22	7	Nil
Measles	11	-	Nil
Whooping Cough	9	2	Nil
Acute Polio Encephalitis	1	1	1
Erysipelas	3	-	Nil

There were also 8 primary notifications of Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease, arranged in age groups.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.- 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total	5	-	3	-	-	1	1	-

D SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1 WATER SUPPLY.

Briefly the Undertakings within the Chesham Urban District are as follows:-

(a) Chesham Urban District Council supply a part of the district which can conveniently be described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries to their present position. The area of supply is 1,357 acres being approximately 40 per cent. of the Urban Area (3,489 acres), but it contains about 76 per cent. of the total number of dwelling-houses.

(b) Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co., serves what we might call the North-West area which extends roughly from Chartridge Lane to the west side of Vale Road in the northern part of the district. Within this district in Pednor Road there are approximately ten dwelling-houses which have individual boreholes and hand-pumps.

These boreholes are subject to regular sampling and the water is reported to be of high bacterial and chemical purity.

(c) The Great Berkhamsted Water Co., serves the North-East area which comprises the fringe formed by the difference in the two boundaries, the old and the new, and which extends roughly from the east side of Vale Road, Nashleigh Hill, to Lye Green Road.

(d) Amersham and Beaconsfield Water Co., supplies the southern area, mainly Bois Moor Road, which comprises a very small part of the district.

Samples of Public Water Supplies Collected During the Year.

Name of Water Undertaker	Samples for Bacteriological Examination		Samples for Chemical Analysis	
	Date	Result	Date	Result
Chesham Urban District Council	24. 1.50.	Satisfactory	24. 1.50	Satisfactory
	12.10.50	Satisfactory	12.10.50	Satisfactory
	13.12.50	Satisfactory	13.12.50	Satisfactory
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.	14. 6.50	Unsatisfactory	14. 6.50	Satisfactory
	26. 7.50	Satisfactory	-	-
	12.10.50	Satisfactory	12.10.50	Satisfactory
	13.12.50	Satisfactory	13.12.50	Satisfactory
Amersham & Beaconsfield Water Co.	14. 6.50	Satisfactory	14. 6.50	Satisfactory
	25.10.50	Satisfactory	25.10.50	Satisfactory
Berkhamsted Water Co.	12.10.50	Satisfactory	12.10.50	Satisfactory

Specimen copies of the Analyses are to be found in the Appendices I - IV

Samples collected from swimming pools and bathing places.

During the year, two samples of water were taken from the public swimming bath controlled by the Council, and the results of the bacteriological examination on the samples were reasonably satisfactory.

I am satisfied with the purity of the water from all undertakings within the Urban District of Chesham both in regard to quality and quantity. The supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbosolvent action.

The number of dwelling-houses having no internal water supply is small, being approximately two per cent. of the total number of dwellings and many of these would have been dealt with under the Housing Acts but for the commencement of hostilities.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Only the outlying areas of the District remain unsewered, in areas where, due to the contours of the land, the necessary fall to the sewage farm would be difficult to obtain. The Council's cess-pool emptying machine emptied 366 cesspools during 1950, 119 of these being in the Urban District, whilst the remainder were in adjoining areas.

The sewerage is on the separate system, the soil water sewer discharging at the Council's Sewage Disposal Plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor for the following brief details of the major reconstruction of the outfall sewer in Latimer Road.

During 1950, the old 15 inch diameter stoneware main sewer between Lords Mill, Waterside, and the Sewage Disposal Works was replaced by a new 20 inch diameter cast iron sewer. New detritus tanks were also constructed at the sewer outfall including screens. The length of the new sewer is just over 3/4 mile.

3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All house refuse collected in the Urban District is disposed of by incineration at the Council's Incinerator Plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

Salvage Return for 1950.

	tons.	cwts.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	8	1	56	22	13	3
Scrap iron	1	7	0	2	16	0
Bottles	1	0	28	2	0	6
Lead		2	42	8	8	9
Brass		2	28	5	1	6
	10	13	42	£41	0	0

4. POST-WAR HOUSING.

In the period from May, 1950 to April, 1951, the Council have rehoused 80 families.

Since 1946, Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 487 families and the following is the number of dwellings at present owned by the Council.

Pre-war dwellings	529
Post-war dwellings	<u>282</u>
Total	<u>811</u>

Fourteen cases of statutory overcrowding, as defined by Section 58, Housing Act, 1936 have been abated during the period, 6 cases occurring in Council houses and 8 cases in privately owned property.

E. SANITARY INSPECTION

1. SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	96
" " " revisited " " " "	244
" " " inspected under Housing Acts	4
" " " revisited " " " "	6
" " " inspected for vermin	27
" " rooms disinfested	34
" " revisits to verminous premises	19
Miscellaneous visits to houses	989
Visits where infectious disease had occurred	37
Number of rooms disinfested	4
Visits to Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection)	739
" " Butchers' Shops	36
" " Fish Shops	13
" " Grocers' Shops	75
" " Ice-cream Premises	44
" " Food-Preparing places	14
" " Restaurants	25
" " Bakehouses	11
" " Dairies	8
" in connection with Milk Sampling	34
" to Licensed Premises	23
" " Knacker's Yard	1
" and inspections of Factories	28
" in connection with water supply	76
Interviews	235
Miscellaneous Visits	261

2. LIBRARY BOOKS.

During the year 19 library books were withdrawn from houses where infectious disease had occurred and were disinfested before being returned to the libraries for re-circulation.

3. VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year, 13 verminous premises were dealt with by the staff of the Public Health Department, involving the disinfestation of 34 rooms. Treatment with D.D.T. preparations proved effective in each case.

4. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

The following table shews the number of defects which have been dealt with by means of informal action during 1950:-

Defect	Number of Defects			
	Outstanding on 1.1.50.	Reported in 1950	Remedied in 1950	Outstanding on 31.12.50.
Dampness	43	21	38	26
Defective doors and windows	16	14	20	10
Defective roof surface water drainage	13	7	15	5

Defect	Number of Defects			
	Outstanding on 1.1.50.	Reported in 1950	Remedied in 1950	Outstanding on 31.12.50.
Defective sanitary accommodation	18	12	24	6
Defective dustbins	2	15	17	-
Defective floors, stairs, etc.	3	7	4	6
Defective plaster-work	14	9	15	8
Defective fireplaces	4	2	3	3
Leaking roofs	13	10	13	10
Defective and dangerous ceilings	-	1	-	1
Defective drainage systems.	1	1	2	-
Defective coppers	2	-	1	1
Defective yard paving and drainage	1	-	1	-
Choked drains	-	3	3	-
Miscellaneous	17	2	14	5
Totals	147	104	170	81

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. STATUTORY NOTICES

The following statement is a summary of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year:-

Section of Act.	No. of Notices Served	Details	Notices Complied with (By owners)	Notices outstanding on 31.12.50.
39	2	Defective drainage systems.	1	1
45	1	Defective sanitary accommodation.	-	1
93	7	Abatement of nuisances.	3	3 *

* One Notice which was not complied with in the specified period could not be enforced as the person on whom the Notice was served had ceased to be responsible for the premises. Action was therefore commenced with a view to the abatement of the nuisance by the new owner.

The following is a list of the defects remedied by owners in compliance with the above Statutory Notices:-

Defective roof surface water drainage	...	1
Defective and leaking roofs.	...	1
Defective fireplaces	...	1
Defective floors	...	1

6. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. PROVISION OF DUSTBINS

Section 75 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1936 provides that a notice requiring the provision of a dustbin may be served by the Local Authority upon either the owner or the occupier, the Local Authority themselves deciding upon whom to serve the notice after consideration of the relevant factors. In practice, most notices have been served upon the owners. Recently, however, appeals by aggrieved owners have in several cases lead to court decisions against the Local Authorities concerned, although the court rulings did little to clarify the responsibility of owners and occupiers in general.

Following the recommendation of the Public Health Committee, the Chesham Urban District Council decided in May, 1950 to deal with the matter by proceeding under Section 75 (3) of the Act, as amended, which provides that in lieu of requiring the owners or occupiers of buildings to provide and maintain dustbins, the Local Authority may themselves undertake to provide and maintain such dustbins as may be necessary. So long as such an undertaking is in force the Local Authority may make an annual charge not exceeding 5/- in respect of each dustbin, and such charge may be recovered as part of the general rate in respect of the premises for which the dustbin has been provided.

When the Public Health Department becomes aware of unsatisfactory arrangements for the storage of house refuse, a letter is first sent to the owner of the building, drawing his attention to the need for the provision of a dustbin. At the same time he is informed that the Council can themselves provide a dustbin at the premises making an annual charge for the service, but in order that he may provide a dustbin himself, if he so desires, a period of 28 days is allowed to elapse before further action is taken. If after this period no dustbin has been provided the Council put into operation the arrangements outlined above.

Since the adoption of this alternative procedure 9 dustbins have been provided by the Council at houses within the District.

7. HOUSING.

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	100
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	254
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts.	3
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose. Visits to properties already recorded in (2)(a)	9
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	3
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	97

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:-

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|-----|
| (1) | Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | | 45. |
|-----|---|-------|-----|

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A.- Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------|----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | | 0. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after services of formal notices:- | | |
| | (a) by Owners | ..... | 0. |
| | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ..... | 0. |

B.- Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ..... | 9. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | | |
| | (a) by Owners | ..... | 5. |
| | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ..... | 0. |

C.- Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ..... | 0. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ..... | 0. |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Local Authority accepted an undertaking that the premises should not be used for human habitation | ..... | 1. |

D.- Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|----|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ..... | 0. |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ..... | 0. |

Housing Act, 1936: Overcrowding

(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.....	14
(b)	Number of persons concerned in cases under (a)	.....	49
(c)	Number of cases of overcrowding in Council Houses relieved during the year (included under (a))..		6

6. RODENT CONTROL.

On the 31st March, 1950, the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, came into operation, and the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, was repealed. The important difference between the new and old Acts is that Borough and District Councils are now directly vested with powers, whereas formerly the vesting was in the County Councils, with the option of delegation to Borough and District Councils willing to accept the duties. In these days, when District Councils are losing so many of their powers to the County Authorities, it is refreshing to note an instance of the reverse process taking place.

The new Act emphasises the primary obligation as being upon the Local Authority to ensure that, so far as practicable, its area is kept free from rats and mice. Under the old Act the primary duty was laid upon the individual occupier, coupled with a right of the Local Authority to enforce the requirement upon him.

It is now the duty of occupiers to give written notice when they have knowledge that rats and mice are present on their premises in substantial numbers. It is important to note that the new requirement does not remove the right of the occupier to arrange for the destruction of rats and mice on his premises, nor does the exercise of that right relieve him of the duty of giving notice of their presence in substantial numbers.

The operation of the new Act has entailed little modification of this Council's existing methods of rodent control, and a regular survey of the district, together with regular treatments of the Council's sewers, has been maintained with satisfactory results.

Set out below is a summary of the Rodent Officer's work, followed by a copy of the form of annual return required by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under the provisions of the new Act. In this particular instance, the return applies to the period from the 31st March, 1950 until 31st December 1950.

Summary of the Rodent Officer's Work
1st January to 31st December, 1950

Private dwellings inspected	.....	1,132
Business premises inspected	.....	163
Infestations treated:-		
Business Premises	.....	12
Private dwellings	.....	212
Rats killed (Ministry Formula)	.....	1,265

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
Report for period 31st March to 31st December, 1950

Table I: PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

TYPE OF PROPERTY	(i)	(ii) Number of properties in Local Authority's Area	(iii)	(iv) Recorded Total of (ii) & (iii)	Number infested by			(vii) Analysis of Column (iv)
	Total	Notified by Occupier	Otherwise dis-covered	Total of (ii) & (iii)	Rats		Mice only	
					Major	Minor		
Local Authority's Property	9	2	4	6	2	4	-	
Dwelling House	3,437	18	164	182	3	179	1	
Business Premises	437	1	3	4	-	4	-	
Agricultural Property *	33	-	1	1	1	-	-	
TOTAL	3,916	21	172	193	6	187	1	

* This figure does not include non-rateable agricultural hereditaments

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
Report for period 31st March to 31st December, 1950.

Table II: MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

TYPE OF PROPERTY	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of notices served under Section 4		Number of treatments carried out				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect. 6 (1) or by informal arrangement.		
					By arrangement with Occupier	Rats*	Mice only	Rats*	Mice only	Under Section 5 (1)	
			Treat-ments	Works							
LOCAL AUTHORITY'S PROPERTY	7	29	-	-		6	-		-		
DWELLING HOUSE	958	1,690	-	-		183	1		-	26	
BUSINESS PREMISES	127	143	-	-		4	-		-	-	
AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY	7	9	-	-		-	-		-	-	
TOTAL	1,099	1,871	-	-		193	1		-	26	
										128	-

* Include under this heading properties infested with both rats and mice
 Ø Excluding treatments included under block treatments

F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949.

Since the coming into operation of the above-mentioned Regulations on the 1st October, 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and to its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

During the year 12 samples of bottled milk in respect of which the special designation "Pasteurised" was in use were collected from licensed distributors in the area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The laboratory reported that all the samples passed the prescribed tests for "Pasteurised" milk.

The number and type of licences granted by this Authority under the Regulations are given below:-

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	1
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	1
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised"	1

2. MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouse

The Ministry of Food continue to operate the slaughterhouse situated on the premises of the Chesham, Wycombe and Tring Co-operative Society, Ltd., High Street, Chesham. This slaughterhouse, which is of modern construction, serves as a slaughtering centre for the supply of home-killed beef, veal and mutton for Chesham and the surrounding districts. This area has a population of over 50,000.

During the year under review, the number of animals slaughtered has increased considerably, partly due to the restricted supply of imported meat. The Council's Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for the examination of all meat, and a system of 100% inspection is in operation. This work has involved 739 visits to the slaughterhouse during the past twelve months.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1220	351	1256	4008	27
Number inspected	1220	351	1256	4008	27
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	3	3	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	376	81	3	49	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	30.9%	23.9%	0.5%	1.2%	11.1%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	7	10	4	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned.	135	72	-	-	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.6%	23.4%	0.3%	-	14.8%

Cysticercus Bovis Infestation of Cattle.

In November, 1948, a Ministry of Food Circular was received drawing attention to the fact that cases of cysticercus bovis infestation of cattle had been reported from different parts of the country. Cysticercus bovis infestation, although common in many foreign countries, had hitherto been extremely rare amongst home-killed animals.

Cysticercus bovis is the larval state in the life cycle of Taenia Saginata, a tapeworm which inhabits the intestine of man. Infected persons excrete ova from the tapeworm and these are

consumed by cattle feeding on sewage contaminated pastures. In the affected animals the cystic stage of the tapeworm develops and produces a condition commonly known as "Measly Beef". The cysts have a predilection for muscular parts, chiefly the musculature of the head, tongue, heart and diaphragm. It follows that human beings are infected by consuming meat containing active cysts.

Thorough cooking is capable of destroying the cysts but as a large number of people habitually consume meat in a partially cooked state it is unsafe to rely upon this measure. Prolonged freezing has been found to destroy the cysts and it has therefore been the practice for infested carcasses to be subjected to a period of refrigeration before release for human consumption. Alternatively, the infested carcasses have been sent to approved manufacturers of meat products where they are certain of receiving adequate cooking. The carcasses of any heavily infested animals are condemned.

During post-mortem examination of animals slaughtered in the Chesham Slaughterhouse in 1950, 12 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered, representing an incidence of 0.8% in animals examined. The examinations revealed only slight infestations, limited to one or two cysts in each animal, but the entire carcass and offal in each case was nevertheless subjected to the treatment mentioned above before release for human consumption.

It is now apparent that a reservoir of human infection with Taenia Saginata exists in this country, the infection having most likely been introduced during the war and immediate post-war years by prisoners of war and foreign workers. The task of tracing the source of infection following the discovery of an infested animal is a difficult one. In the first place, the animal concerned may have changed hands several times in the months preceding slaughter, and owners are often unable to give the history of individual animals. Secondly, if an infested animal is identified with a particular farm for an appreciable period it is still not easy to trace the human carriers owing to the itinerant nature of labour on many farms. In addition the widespread use of sewage sludge on farm land complicates the problem.

When cases have been discovered in the Chesham Slaughterhouse, all available particulars of the animals have been forwarded to the Public Health Department of the Authorities in whose Districts the animals were known to have been last located. It is, however, disappointing to record that none of the Authorities notified in this way have reported any success in tracing human carriers.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at	
31st December, 1949	 12
Applications for Licences considered	
during 1950	 1
Number of Slaughtermen removed from	
Register (no applications	
for renewal of licences)	 1
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at	
31st December, 1950	 12

3. CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS.

	Tons.	Cwts.	lbs.
Beef	12	12	16
Mutton		1	39
Pork		4	81
Veal		1	81
Corned Beef.			63 $\frac{3}{4}$
Beef Sausages.			37
Cheese			62
Wet Fish			28
Fruit Cake			5
Luncheon Sausage			12
Bacon.			9
Dates.			3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eggs . Number of - 948			
	13	1	101 $\frac{1}{4}$

Tinned Goods

Milk	471 tins
Fish	70 "
Meat	204 "
Fruit	256 "
Vegetables	401 "
Jam and Marmalade	21 "
Sundry Goods	37 " or jars

4. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

Regular inspection of all food premises was maintained during the year. The attention of the occupier was drawn to any defects found and in this way a number of improvements were effected. The following is a summary of the principal defects found and remedied:-

Particulars	Number of Defects			
	Out-standing on 1.1.50.	Found During Year	Remedied During Year	Out-standing on 31.12.50.
Want of cleanliness and poor decorations in food rooms.	6	8	6	8
Walls, floors and ceilings of food rooms in disrepair.	2	5	2	5
Carried Fwd: to next page:	8	13	8	13

Particulars	Number of Defects			
	Out-standing on 1.1.50	Found during year	Remedied during year	Out-standing on 31.12.50
Brought Forward from Previous page:	8	13	8	13
Inadequate washing facilities for use of staff.	7	4	3	8
Unsatisfactory food storage accommodation.	1	1	1	1
Unsatisfactory refuse accommodation.	1	2	2	1
Absence of intervening ventilated space between sanitary convenience and food room.	-	1	1	-
Totals:	17	21	15	23

5. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - SECTION 15. BYELAWS

Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, empowers Local Authorities to make Byelaws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.

In October, 1949, new Model Byelaws, prepared by a working party of officers of the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Health were issued for the guidance of Local Authorities intending to make such Byelaws. After consideration of the matter, this Council decided to seek approval for the adoption of Byelaws closely following the Model Byelaws. The Byelaws were confirmed without amendment by the Minister of Food on the 12th June, 1950, and came into operation on the 17th July, 1950.

These Byelaws represent a valuable supplement to the existing legislation and observance of their provisions by all concerned will undoubtedly bring about a very desirable improvement of the hygienic conditions in the food trade.

A copy of the Byelaws has been sent to every food trader in the District.

6. ICE-CREAM

During the year frequent visits were made to premises where ice-cream was manufactured or sold with a view to ensuring that the provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, were observed.

Given below is a summary of the premises registered by this Authority for the Sale, Storage and Manufacture of ice-cream.

Register of Ice-Cream Premises

	Premises on Register 1949	Added to Register 1950	Removed from Register 1950	Totals
Sale and Storage of Ice-Cream	26	5	-	31
Manufacture of Ice-Cream	6	-	-	6
Total	32	5	-	37

Twenty-four samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. The majority of the samples were taken from supplies of ice-cream manufactured in the District and where the laboratory reports indicated that the ice-cream did not come up to the desired bacteriological standard, visits were made to the manufacturer's premises with a view to ascertaining the reason for the unsatisfactory results.

In the main, the premises in Chesham in which ice-cream is manufactured or sold are of a satisfactory standard. The bulk of the ice-cream sold is manufactured outside the District and is of the pre-packed variety.

7. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

During the year one case of food poisoning was notified. The organism responsible was identified as *Salmonella typhi-murium* and available evidence suggested that the food involved had been consumed in a public restaurant situated outside the District.

G. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	88	28	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	98	28	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
	2	1	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	2	-	-	-

3. OUTWORK.

During the year lists of Outworkers have been received shewing the names of 55 persons engaged in the following classes of work:-

Making of wearing apparel	12
Making of furniture hangings	33
Brush-making	10

4. CHESHAM INDUSTRIES.

The following is a list of Factories and Factories (No Mechanical Power) on the Register on the 31st December, 1950:-

Factories.

Woodware and Joinery	15
Motor Engineers, Garages, etc	12
Brushware	9
Boot Manufacture and Repairs	7
Bakers	5
Light Engineering	4
Clothing and Textiles	4
Printers	3
Packing	3
Toys	3
Builders	3
Handbags	1
Coachbuilders	1
Manufacturing Jewellers	1
Brewers	1
Miscellaneous	16
Total	88

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Joinery	1
Undertakers	1
Waste Merchants	1
Stone Mason	1
Packing	2
Tailors	1
Cycle Repairs	1
Blacksmith	1
Radio Engineer	1
Total	10

Appendix I

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D.F.H. BUTTON, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst

17th October, 1950.

M.57

Analysis of a sample of water received on 12th October, 1950,
from Chesham Urban District Council per Mr. L.D. Saturley.

Sample of water taken from tap on main at 2, Lyeckrome Road,
Chesham. Water supplied by Berkhamsted Water Undertaking.

Appearance.	Clear & Colourless.
Reaction (pH)	7.5
Free Chlorine	nil

Parts per 100,000

Total Solids	30.8
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.8
Free Ammonia	nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	nil
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.35
Nitrogen as Nitrites	nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. @ 98°F)	nil
Hardness {Temporary}	22.1
Hardness {Permanent}	6.0
Hardness (Total)	28.1
Metals (Lead, Copper & Zinc) . .	Not found in 100 ml.

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C.	0
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C.	1
Bacillus coli	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high
chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and
domestic purposes.

(Signed)

D.F.H. BUTTON

Public Analyst.

Appendix II

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D.F.H. BUTTON, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

2nd November, 1950.

M.66

Analysis of a sample of water received on 25th October, 1950,
from Chesham Urban District Council per Mr. L.D. Saturley.

Sample of water taken from tap at Bois Moor Road, Chesham.
Water supplied by Amersham & Beaconsfield District Water Co.

Appearance	Clear & Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.4
Free Chlorine (parts per million)	0.002

Parts per 100,000

Total Solids	32.4
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.5
Free Ammonia	nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0008
Nitrogen as Nitrates	1.0
Nitrogen as Nitrites	nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. @ 98°F)	0.001
Hardness {Temporary}	24.7
Hardness {Permanent}	5.0
Hardness (Total)	29.7
Metals (Lead, Copper & Zinc)	Not found.

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C.	0
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C.	1
Bacillus coli	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high
chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and
domestic purposes.

(Signed)

D.F.H. BUTTON

Public Analyst.

Appendix III

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D.F.H. BUTTON, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

21st December, 1950.

M.74.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 13th December, 1950,
from Chesham Urban District Council per Mr. L.D. Saturley.

Sample of water taken from tap off main, Public Health
Department, Council Offices, Chesham. Chesham Urban
District Council supply.

Appearance	Clear & Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.3
Free Chlorine	nil

Parts per 100,000

Total Solids	30.6
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.3
Free Ammonia	nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	nil
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.40
Nitrogen as Nitrites	nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. @ 98°F)	nil
Hardness (Temporary)	23.9
Hardness (Permanent)	4.3
Hardness (Total)	28.2
Metals (Lead, Copper & Zinc)	Not found

Bacteriological Examination.

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C	2
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C	3
Bacillus coli	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high
chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and
domestic purposes.

(Signed) D.F.H. BUTTON
Public Analyst.

Appendix IV

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D.F.H. BUTTON, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

21st December, 1950.

M.75.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 13th December, 1950,
from Chesham Urban District Council per Mr. L.D. Saturley.

Sample of water taken from standpipe, The Vale Cottages,
Chesham. Water supplied by Rickmansworth & Uxbridge
Valley Water Co.

Appearance	Clear & Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.4
Free Chlorine	nil

Parts per 100,000

Total Solids	34.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.5
Free Ammonia	nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0036
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.35
Nitrogen as Nitrites	nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. @ 98°F)	nil
Hardness (Temporary)	22.2
Hardness (Permanent)	6.2
Hardness (Total)	28.4
Metals (Lead, Copper & Zinc)	Not Found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C.	1
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C	2
Bacillus coli	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high
chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and
domestic purposes.

(Signed) D.F.H. BUTTON
Public Analyst.